

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REPORT 2005



Left to right: Town Administrator Walter Johnson, Selectman Peter Webster, Vice Chairman Sam Laverack, Chairman Peter Francesco, Selectman Barbara Currier, Selectman Suzanne Peoples, and Municipal Secretary Dee Canavan.

Well, there goes another year into the history books of our wonderful town. It has been another eventful year. After 8 years, Paul Weston resigned from his position as Town Administrator and has taken the job of Town Administrator in Farmington, we wish him well. In Paul's absence, Peter Russell, former Town Administrator of Meredith came on to fill the void. We have since welcomed Walter Johnson to lead our ship as full time Administrator. He comes to us after serving the town of Lisbon for 8 years. Many of you have already met him and found how efficient, professional and easy he is to work with. Hazel Gray resigned to spend time with her new husband Derwood Gray. Hazel was our "Girl Friday", she did whatever was asked of her from cleaning, to painting, to mowing and raking the cemeteries. We will miss her constant, positive attitude and willingness to do almost anything that was asked of her. Good luck Hazel! Ernest Brown (Brownie, your friendly face at the transfer station) retired as our lead transfer station attendant after serving the town for 8 years. A retirement party was held in his honor and many well wishers came to say thanks. Louis Pare has decided to move on from his job as Welfare Director and we are in the process of hiring a replacement. Lou did a great job for us and his face will be missed around the town hall. Thank you Lou!

We were able to fill all open positions, starting with Hazel's when we hired Jennifer Brown who just happens to be Brownie's granddaughter! Scott Davis has filled Brownie's shoes with the same kind of cheery hello and helpfulness as his predecessor. Susan Buttrick has been hired as the part time operator and is a welcome addition to the team.

Holderness School (private) felt a need for a full time, fully trained, School Resource Officer. With cooperation from the school, the selectmen and Chief of Police Jeremiah Patridge the town has hired Mike Barney. When school is in session Officer Barney will be there full time and you will see him in service for the town when classes are not being held. The school will reimburse us for the time he spends there.

Projects that have been worked on or completed include the village sidewalk which is substantially completed and the finish coat of asphalt, the relocation of the Verizon

pole, landscaping and final cleanup will be completed in the spring. After many hours spent, and with your approval last March, we have a resolution to the sewer district issue and are now able to administer the bills in house.

We have also reached agreements with Holderness School and Plymouth State University for sidewalk maintenance. Holderness School will maintain the new sidewalks South on Route 175A and the University will continue to maintain those on the North side on 175A.

The town hall is looking better all the time with the completion of the handicapped ramp, the refinishing of the wood floor and the addition of insulated shades. Some new furniture has been ordered and will show up soon to further spruce up the place.

By the time you read this the new fire truck should have arrived and Fire Chief Richard Mardin will have an open house and welcomes all to come and see.

We are presently one police officer short as Jerry Vogel returned to Bristol. Chief Patridge was, however, able to hire Barry Tanner, a lieutenant with the experience to aid the Chief in his managerial duties.

Thanks to the fiscal responsibility and careful management by all of the departments the tax rate actually went down by one penny last year. We are realizing further gains each year at the transfer station because of training and a better understanding of recycling practices by both our staff, and especially you, our caring citizens. The Board of Selectmen sincerely thanks you for your support and the trust you have given us to help keep the Town of Holderness the quaint, small town with the wonderful quality of life we all enjoy here. The Board is only a cog in the wheel and we recognize all of the employees at the Town Hall, the highway department, the fire department, the police department, the transfer station, and the recreation department, and thank you all for making this town run so well.

Respectfully submitted,
Your Board of Selectmen
Peter S. Francesco, Chairman
Samual L. Laverack, Vice Chairman
Barbara C. Currier
Peter T. Webster
Suzanne B. Peoples